From:	Fox & Hounds
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Fox&Hounds discusses and explains the confluence of politics and business in California through our blog, featuring opinion pieces written by leaders from across the state published daily. Read below to see what's new on the site today.

"Follow the Money" Report Reveals Billions in Government Waste, Fraud, and Abuse
By Jon Coupal

Millions of Californians will file tax returns this Tax Day and many wonder whether the billions they send to their government actually goes to good use. The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association released the annual Follow the Money report documenting Sacramento's repeated failure to properly manage taxpayers' hard-earned dollars.
Examples covered in the report include failure to account for $13 billion intended for English language learners, a $340 million Los Angeles turf replacement program exposed by auditors for lacking accountability, and a $254 million payroll system overhaul that is still not functional.

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How Brown Fuels Debt
By Joe Mathews

Gov. Jerry Brown has defined himself as a careful fiscal steward, wary of taking on more debt. Those have been his words, at least. But his actions – or lack thereof – encourage borrowing. To put it more bluntly, Brown's excessive frugality (he brags about being cheap) fuels debt. Brown has been reluctant to raise taxes in office. He raised income and sales taxes temporarily and only with voter approval; his recent road package makes only relatively small increases to gas taxes. Even with his party controlling two-thirds of the legislature for stretches, he hasn't moved for tax increases. And he's called tax reform too difficult and unrealistic.

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Dog Days in Sacramento
By Patti Strand

If childhood memories invoke thoughts of a favorite pet, a golden, a lab or a playful bulldog and you're looking forward to the day when you can share that special breed with your family, it's time to pay attention. At least one California lawmaker has a different plan for your future: His bill, AB 485, seeks to replace pet store puppies with totally unregulated shelter and rescue dogs, some from as far away as Asia.
The author of this bill, California Assembly Member Patrick O'Donnell, should be applauded for trying to eliminate bad dog breeders, save animal lives, and protect consumers, but AB 485 achieves none of those goals. Instead of helping consumers or solving animal welfare problems, it creates a government-mandated monopoly making stray and unwanted dogs, and unregulated rescues and shelters the only retail source for dogs and puts legally operating pet shops with dogs from regulated breeders out of business.

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Don't Take Away Pharmaceutical Assistance for Patients
By Shane P. Desselle, RPh, PhD, FAPhA

Rising health care costs have many looking for ways to ease patient burdens and maximize health outcomes. Despite taking up only 10% of health care expenditures, prescription drugs have become the highlight of discussion and target for most proposed cost-cutting measures. And with these drugs, pharmaceutical manufacturers have become easy scapegoats for the many ills that plague a fragmented health system. This past election cycle saw much grandstanding and proposals of policies purportedly aimed to help patients. But when proposed policies are aimed more to legislate ideology, they do far more harm than good. Such is the case for AB 265 (Wood), which would ban patients in California from receiving copayment assistance from a pharmaceutical manufacturer when a therapeutically equivalent drug is available at a lower cost.

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